

ABSTRACT

A network switch which allows a network processor to process resultant data from a look-up engine while the look-up engine proceeds to deal with a subsequent packet.

5 The look-up engine stores the resultant data in registers from which the resultant data is written back for the packet if the processor does not intervene. If the processor intervenes it acts on the resultant data, which is written back for the packet only after the processor has finished. A system of pointers and busy bits ensures that the packet is not forwarded until the look-up engine and (if required) the network processor have completed their operations in relation to the packet.

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